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FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9505  
INFO RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 0051  
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY 1105  
RUEHPS/AMEMBASSY PRISTINA PRIORITY 0619  
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY 1002  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0109

UNCLAS ZAGREB 000545

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

PASS TO EUR/SCE, L/EUR AND L/UNA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AORC HR PREL ICJ KV

SUBJECT: CROATIA PREFERS JOINT BULGARIAN/HUNGARIAN/CROATIAN  
SUBMISSION OF ORAL BRIEF ON KOSOVO AT ICJ

REF: ZAGREB 543

¶11. (SBU) While reftel reports that Croatia was inclined to provide an oral briefing at the ICJ on Kosovo's independence, MFA State Secretary Davor Bozinovic informed charge this morning that Croatia would now prefer to undertake this oral argument jointly with Bulgaria and Hungary. Bozinovic explained that a joint approach would make it easier for Croatia to sell its decision to its partners in the region. Having initiated this idea, Bozinovic said, the Bulgarians are fully on board. However, according to Bozinovic, the Hungarians have said that they don't want to provide an oral argument on Kosovo either jointly or independently because they don't want to expend any political capital on the issue. Bozinovic asked whether Washington would be willing to ask the Hungarians to reconsider their stance. Bozinovic noted that Foreign Minister Jandrovic and the Hungarian FoMin are scheduled to meet on September 9 to discuss this issue further.

¶12. (SBU) Comment: From post's perspective, a demarche on the Hungarians to agree to a joint submission might help to move this process forward. For the record, Bozinovic was unable to provide a straight answer when asked whether Hungary's refusal to participate in a joint oral argument would mean that Croatia would walk back its stated inclination to present this brief. End Comment.

WALKER